

# MADE HOMES AND HISTORY

## Clinton Pioneers Were Sturdy People

## THEIR MEMORY VENERATED

(Dedicatory Ceremonies Continued.)

The boyhood recollections of Sheldon Norton of Carbondale, a son of Deacon E. K. Norton, an honored member of Clinton church, contained most interesting references to pioneer settlers. His narrative follows:

"The Elk's horns on Asa Stanton's front porch are one of the land marks in my boyhood days, and I have never passed the house in all of the years that are gone without looking for them. The day dreams of hunting elk and Indians were many, and the camp fires that have blazed in my imagination are not a few. Was there ever born in a county where the forests were being cut down, a boy, that did not long for a frontier life and to be a second Daniel Boone or a Kit Carson?

"As I try to write this story of what I saw, or rather, how men and things looked to me, there is unraveled a panorama of moving pictures of men and scenes that run so fast that they seem to blend into one picture. but when I think that more than sixty years have passed away, and of the thousands of men and places I have seen, it is hard to separate the pictures and not look at the past from the standpoint of one who has nearly reached the age of three score years and ten.

"Clinton was settled by people from Massachusetts and Connecticut, with the addition of some from Mount Pleasant, which was settled at an early period. Pecks, Stantons, Stearns, McMullens moved from Mount Pleasant. The Nortons, Grennells, Gaylords, Sanders and Griswolds were from Massachusetts and Connecticut, and these with the families from Mt. Pleasant were the ones who came into what then was a wilderness of hemlock, beech and maple and cleared the land so that they could provide food and clothing for themselves and families and to make homes. We often think of the church as being the only divine institution that the all wise Creator has given man, but the God given home was established ages before the church, and a godly home is yet God's best earthly gift to man, and these men were home builders, and were of the type that built homes when truth, integrity, industry and thrift were taught, and the fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man were the controlling principles of their lives.

"The Clinton church was not only the religious center, but the social center also. I remember the old church, or rather meeting house, but dimly. I well remember the storm that destroyed it, as the hail stones broke the windows in our home, and I was so frightened that I went behind the stove. I also remember Elder Curtis holding services in the grove back of the present meeting house, after the old building was destroyed by the cyclone.